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REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE
NEW MEXICO VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION, THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE LAS
VEGAS VETERANS COMMITTEE ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE FUNDING THAT
WOULD BE NEEDED TO CREATE THE
LAS VEGAS ARMORY CENTER.

WHEREAS, the development of the Las Vegas armory center, formerly known
as the "old armory building", has been initiated by a group of veterans who served with
three
New Mexico national guard battalions; and

WHEREAS, the members of the three New Mexico national guard battalions, in
anticipation of war, volunteered early, fifteen months before the attack on Pearl
Harbor; and

WHEREAS, one of the three battalions, the 200th coast artillery, was the first to
fight but lacked support because the country was not fully prepared; and

WHEREAS, the second battalion, the 120th combat engineer battalion,
together with the southwestern 45th infantry, saw the most days of direct combat, five
hundred eleven, of any division in the Pacific or Atlantic theaters; and

WHEREAS, the 120th combat engineer battalion was the first national guard
unit federalized to go to Bataan; and

WHEREAS, the 45th infantry had the largest number of Hispanics and Native
Americans of any division; and

WHEREAS, the 45th infantry was lauded by
General George Patton as the first to serve under his command, and Marshall
Kesselring, overall German commander in the Mediterranean area, said that it was
one of the two best United States divisions against which he had ever fought; and

WHEREAS, the third battalion, the 804th tank destroyer battalion, saw

1 honorable action in Italy and Germany; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico veterans have served with distinction throughout the
3 state's history, and there are currently over one hundred ninety thousand veterans in
4 the state; and

5 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas voted to preserve the old armory
6 building and create the Las Vegas veterans center in order to serve the needs of
7 northern New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, there is a coordinated initiative, through the Las Vegas veterans
9 committee, to use the "old armory building" as the Las Vegas armory center for
10 education, training, housing, medical and social services and general economic
11 development for veterans; and

12 WHEREAS, the community of Las Vegas desires to hold a groundbreaking
13 ceremony for the Las Vegas armory center during the week of the inauguration of the
14 World War II memorial, scheduled for Memorial Day 2004;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the work of the Las Vegas veterans
17 committee to preserve and restore the "old armory building" and convert it into the Las
18 Vegas armory center; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Vegas veterans committee be
20 requested to work with the New Mexico congressional delegation, the New Mexico
21 veterans' service commission, an appropriate interim legislative committee and the
22 legislative finance committee to complete, by
23 October 31, 2003, a study of the feasibility of obtaining the funding that would be
24 needed to make the Las Vegas armory center a reality; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the Las Vegas veterans committee, the
New Mexico congressional delegation, the New Mexico veterans'
service commission, the New Mexico legislative council and
the legislative finance committee.

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